

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 3, lines 9-24, to page 4, line 2, please amend
the paragraph to read as follows:

In the spray cover based on the invention, the tension element is a ~~band or card~~ tightening strap that practically cannot be expanded by hand. The pre-tension required to secure the cover to the coaming and to seal the cover to the coaming is applied using at least one manually operable tightening fitting that is inserted into the tension element. The tightening fitting is so shaped that it is shortened by manual actuation, usually via a lever, thus creating the tension in the tension element. Even a weaker person may mount the spray cover or hatch cover according to the invention to the coaming using the tightening fitting. The tension element, when the tightening fitting is open, is inserted into the coaming channel, and the tightening fitting is then closed. This securing will withstand larger external loads since the tension element is stretched (tensioned) only after it is inserted into the coaming channel, and since the spray cover or hatch cover is thus secured by an approximate form fit to the coaming.